

## The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 10.

## Report of the Southern Peace Commissioners.

RICHMOND, February 5, 1865.

## "To the President of the Confederate States:

"Sir: Under your letter of appointment of the 28 ultimo, we proceeded to seek an 'informal conference' with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, upon the subject mentioned in the letter.

"The conference was granted, and took place on the 30th ult., on board of a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and the Hon. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States. It continued for several hours, and was both full and explicit.

"We learn from them that the message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, in December last, explains clearly and distinctly his sentiments as to the terms, conditions, and method of proceeding by which peace can be secured to the people, and we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to obtain that end.

"We understood from him that no terms or proposals of any treaty or agreement looking to an ultimate settlement would be entertained or made by him with the authorities of the Confederate States, because that would be a recognition of their existence as a separate power, which under no circumstances, would be done; and, for like reasons, that no such terms would be entertained by him from the States separately; that no extended truce or armistice (as at present advised) could be granted or allowed, without a satisfactory assurance in advance of a complete restoration of the authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States over all places within the States of the Confederacy; that whatever consequences may follow from the re-establishment of that authority must be accepted. But that individuals subject to pains and penalties under the laws of the United States might rely upon a very liberal use of the power conferred to him to remit those pains and penalties if peace be restored.

"During the conference the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, adopted on the 31st ult., was brought to our notice.

"The amendment provides that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within the United States, or any place within their jurisdiction; and that Congress should have power to enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation.

"Of all the correspondence that preceded the conference herein mentioned, and leading to the same, you have heretofore been informed.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

ALEX. H. STEPHENS,

R. M. T. HUNTER,

J. A. CAMPBELL.

In transmitting the above report to the Confederate Congress, Mr. Davis accompanied it with a message, in which, after stating that he had "received written ratification which satisfied him that Mr. Lincoln was disposed to confer informally with unofficial agents," and that he had therefore requested the above named gentlemen so to confer, &c., he adds: I herewith submit, for the information of Congress, the report of the eminent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refused to enter into negotiations with the Confederate States, or any one of them separately, or to give to our people any other terms or guarantees than those which a conqueror may grant, or to permit us to have peace on any other basis than our unconditional submission to their rule, coupled with the acceptance of their recent legislation, including an amendment to the Constitution for the emancipation of all negro slaves, and with the right on the part of the Federal Congress to legislate on the subject of the relations between the white and black population of such States.

## LATEST NEWS.

The National Intelligencer, this morning, contains the following extracts from Richmond papers to the 7th inst.:

"The Richmond papers of Monday published a call from Governor Smith, of Virginia, for a war meeting on Monday evening, at the African church in Richmond, to respond to the terms of peace offered the Confederate States.

"Of Tuesday's papers, the Dispatch is the only one which gives any detailed report of the meeting. It says the church was densely packed two hours before the time for the meeting, and fears were at one time entertained that the walls would give way. The paper adds that the war spirit never before burned so fiercely and steadily as at that meeting; and that the firm resolve to resist to the death was plainly visible in every face.

"About 7 o'clock Governor Smith, attended by Mr. Davis, came upon the stand. The Governor addressed the multitude in an animated speech, during which he was frequently interrupted by thunders of applause.

"Mr. Davis followed him in an address of about three quarters of an hour, during which he was frequently interrupted with the wildest bursts of applause.

"As to the conditions of peace, he emphatically asserted that none but the independence of the Confederacy could ever receive his sanction. He said he had embarked in the cause with a full understanding of its meaning and magnitude, and with a full knowledge of the tremendous odds against us; but, with the approval of a just Providence, who, he believed, was on their side, and the united resolve of the people, he doubted not that victory would yet crown their labors and their sufferings.

"In my correspondence with Lincoln, continued Mr. Davis, that functionary has always spoken of the United States and the Confederate States as one country; but in my replies I have never failed to refer to them as separate and distinct Governments. Sooner than that we should ever be united again, I would be willing to yield up everything I have on earth; and if it were possible, I would yield up my life a thousand times rather than succumb.

"He concluded by exhorting those at home who are able to bear arms to unite with those in the field in repelling the foe, believing that thereby they would compel the Yankees in less than twelve months to sue for peace on our own terms."

Loud and long continued applause followed this speech of Mr. Davis.

Repeated calls were made for the Vice President, but it was announced that he was not well enough to respond.

A long series of resolutions were adopted, among which were the following:

*Resolved*, That we spurn with indignation the grossly insulting terms which the President of the United States has proffered to the people of the Confederate States.

*Resolved*, That the terms in which, and the circumstances under which, it was made stamp the proffer as a designed and premeditated outrage upon, and indignity to our people.

*Resolved*, That in this presence, and in the face of the world, invoking thereto the aid and favor of Almighty God, we renew our resolve to maintain our liberties and achieve our

independence, and to this end we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honors."

The Whig says: Our latest Mobile dates state that there are from four to six thousand of the enemy at Pascagoula with strong entrenchments.

The Carolinian says "the enemy seem content with shelling occasionally our lines, from his gunboats, which are in the sound and in the river. Our men are in excellent spirits, and not at all discouraged by the enemy's naval demonstration on either flank."

A deserter came in reports that Admiral Porter and General Terry are both awaiting orders from Washington. Having accomplished the object of the expedition, by the capture of Fort Fisher, the enemy will not attempt any new movement until further orders. It is reported that the enemy are raiding through the county of Brunswick.

General Hood had arrived at Augusta, and made a speech to the people.

Gen. Beauregard also made a speech after Hood. He reviewed briefly his military career from the firing of the first gun at Sumter to the present time, and wanted them to know that he intended to fight it out to the bitter end; and if he failed he could beg a passage to some foreign country.

One officer from the front informs the Columbia, Miss., Republic that the Federals are concentrating large forces at Eastport and Decatur for the purpose of moving on Selma and Montgomery as soon as the roads are in suitable condition.

LEGISLATIVE.—In the Senate, on Wednesday, the Committee on General Laws was instructed to inquire what alterations are necessary in the Code of Virginia of 1860 in order to conform with the Constitution, adopted by the Convention which assembled at Alexandria, Va., February 13th, 1864, and report by bill or otherwise. In the House, Mr. Harmon introduced a bill, entitled "A bill for the incorporation of the Deutsche Männerchor Association of Alexandria," which was read the first time and referred.

Advices from Mexico state that Maximilian has not conquered or subdued his opponents—that the war between the Republicans and Imperialists is going on—that the province of Jalisco is in insurrection, and that the contest, with various success, is kept up in different quarters. Still Maximilian's friends say he is secure in the saddle, and must ultimately put down opposition. The Mexican republicans, however, have not yet given up.

## MARRIED.

At Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro, on Tuesday morning last, by the Rev. Mr. Kershaw, Mr. M. J. SLAYMAN, (one of the editors of the Prince Georgian,) to Miss SARAH A. ATKINSON.

## DIED.

In Stanton, Va., in June last, Dr. WILLIAM HAY, of Milwood, Clarke County, aged about 33 years. A true Virginia gentleman, honored, respected, and beloved by all who knew him. [Balt. Gazette please copy.]

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to the estate of E. M. WALTON, & Co., will please come forward and make immediate payments, or they will be placed in the hands of officers for collection, and those having claims will present them properly authenticated (at once)

A. R. THORP,  
Administrator of E. M. WALTON dec'd.  
JAMES DONOHUE,  
Surviving Partner.

Feb 10—dtmar25